



Human Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room, 7th Floor
January 17, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Linda Smith called the January 17, 2012, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Members: Linda Smith, Chair, Rob Spier, Vice-Chair, Margie Albritton, Elyn Blandón, Charles Gray, Robin Jones

City of Renton Staff: Karen Bergsvik, Dianne Utecht, Carol Allread

Absent

Alicia Glenwell (unexcused), Adria Krail (excused), Elizabeth Stevens (excused), Nicole Wicks (excused)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Robin to approve the December minutes as written. All were in favor, motion carried, minutes approved as submitted.

III. INTRODUCTIONS - WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Committee members and staff introduced themselves to new member Elyn Blandón. Elyn works at Consejo Counseling and Referral Services as a Grants and Contracts Specialist. Prior to that she worked for the City of Seattle in the Human Services division. She also volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She shared that she is excited to join the Committee and is looking forward to expanding her skills.

Michael Riley introduced himself to the group. He is the publisher of the Renton Library newsblog. He indicated that he was at the meeting to observe.

IV. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD & COMMISSIONS TRAINING

Rob, Linda, Karen, and Carol attended. The information that was given out at the meeting was distributed to the members who were present. Linda asked that each member become familiar with the materials, particularly the Guide for Boards, Commissions, and Committees. This guide covers meeting expectations, the code of ethics, and how to be an effective member.

Guest Speaker Dr. Caprice Hollins gave a presentation on the importance of cultural competency. She challenged the board members to become aware of their own biases and preconceived notions and to develop and practice appropriate skills in working with culturally diverse clients, families, communities, and colleagues. Linda suggested using the cultural awareness checklist provided by Dr. Hollins prior to reviewing grant applications. This may help remove biases and allow the reviewer to make funding decisions more clearly.

V. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

A Nominating Committee of Linda, Adria, and Margie presented Rob Spier, the current Vice-Chair, as the candidate for the 2012-2013 term. Committee members voted, and the vote was unanimous for Rob Spier to continue in this role.

VI. FUNDING PROCESS DATES

June 11-12 or June 18-19 were offered as possible dates for the funding deliberations. The majority of members chose June 18-19. Karen will notify those not present of the scheduled dates as soon as possible.

VII. GUEST – RICH ZWICKER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rich came on behalf of City Council to thank the Committee for all the work they do. Council supports their processes and trusts them to lay the ground work that helps get jobs done. Council is impressed with the funding process and appreciates the outreach to agencies since the last funding cycle. Rich is looking forward to the Human Services presentation to Council on February 6.

VIII. FUNDING PROCESS – PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

All members of the committee are invited to attend the presentation on February 6. The Chair and Vice-Chair will work on it with Karen. Karen reviewed the work that has been done in the past year.

There was a discussion as to the purpose of the presentation. It is to focus on the accomplishments of the past year. Suggestions were made by committee members about what should be included.

There were other questions about the funding process. Robin asked if the Renton Results will still be used in the funding process. It was asked if future City budget issues could affect funding decisions and Karen said that it is possible that could happen. Members thought it would be helpful to know more about the projected City budget, prior to making funding recommendations. Karen said she will ask Iwen Wang, Finance Administrator, and Terry Higashiyama, Community Services Administrator, to come to the February meeting to discuss the City's budget.

IX. RESOURCE FAIR/MEET AND GREET WITH AGENCIES

An agency Meet and Greet will be held Thursday, February 23, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Agencies can network at this event, and Adria will recruit volunteers to coordinate a recurring resource fair with her. A short technical training will also be offered on how to get census data for use in grant writing from NWMaps.net. The Human Services Advisory Committee is invited to attend this event.

X. UPDATE ON MOBILE HOME DATA

The Committee approved the policy change to stop serving manufactured homes made prior to 1976. It went to Council in late 2011, and the Community Services Committee asked Karen to contact Judith White, who is involved in Manufactured Home Owners of America, prior to taking action. She did so. The data shows that there are 768 mobile homes in Renton in six different mobile home parks. A total of 102 units are Housing Repair Assistance Program clients, and five of those are pre-1976 mobiles. Karen will report back to Council with this information in mid-February.

XI. CDBG BUDGET PROJECTIONS – 2012

Dianne provided draft 2012 CDBG budget projections. It was originally estimated that CDBG would be cut 13%, but the U.S. Department of Urban Housing and Development (HUD) changed the formula as to how they allocate the funds. Renton's allocation increased 18.8% due to the Benson Hill annexation, and the high number of low and moderate income residents. These are estimates. It is not yet known what the effect of new entitlement communities will be on the allocation and what Congressional action will be taken on the CDBG budget. More definite figures should be available by the time allocations are being decided in June.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Robin, to adjourn the January meeting. All were in favor, motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Signature

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
February 21, 2012, 3:00 P.M.
Renton City Hall, Council Conference Room, 7th Floor